

***Amendments to the Claims***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

13. (currently amended) An axle driving apparatus ~~according to claim 7~~

comprising:

a housing including a cavity;

a hydrostatic transmission disposed within said cavity, said hydrostatic transmission including a hydraulic pump and a hydraulic motor, said hydraulic motor including an output shaft;

a pair of axles disposed within said cavity;

a pair of bevel gears, one disposed on each axle of said pair of axles;

a ring gear coupled to said output shaft of said hydraulic motor; and

a pair of pinion gears disposed within said ring gear and coupled to said pair of bevel gears, whereby said ring gear is supported within said housing by said pair of axles,

wherein a longitudinal axis of said hydraulic pump is disposed a first distance from said axles, and a longitudinal axis of said hydraulic motor is disposed a second distance from said axles, wherein said first distance is smaller than said second distance.